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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 4-21 are pending and indicated as allowed.

In the Non-final Office Action mailed January 6, 2006, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Applicants have canceled the claim, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claim 1 in a continuation application.

Claim 4-21 are allowed. In the Action, the Examiner explicitly allowed claims 4-20 as readily distinguishable over the prior art. In a telephonic conference today, the Examiner indicated that claim 21 was also allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for her courtesies extended to Applicants' representative.

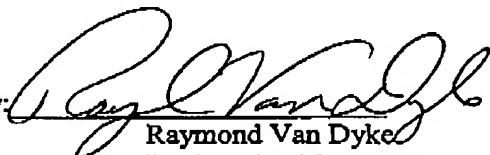
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D. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejections and objections have been overcome and the case is now in condition for allowance. Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner have any further suggestions or observations that would facilitate further prosecution or allowance of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative designated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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